1-39 Boris Pash

Speeches and Writings

Statement by Colonel Boris Pash, AUS Ret.,
to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence,
7 Jan. 1976

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II ④ Retired ~~not sick~~ due to injuries received in combat while in command of a Special Task Force "Alsos" (WWII in Europe)

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In a statement made public by the panel today, Colonel Pash termed Mr. Hunt's assertions "insidious and completely false.

He said he could not recall ever having met or spoken with Mr. Hunt, who is serving a prison term for his role in the Watergage case.

Nor, the colonel said, was he ever "involved in any assas- sination planning" between

lieved to be a double agent.

"I was told that we had that capability," Mr. Hunt said in the interview, and "that the guy to see about this sort o thing was Colonal Pash."

Mr. Hunt, who said that he had understood that Colonel Pash was deceased, added that he did discuss the matter with the colonel, who seemed shocked "that the subject ha ever been brought up," and that the matter consequently was left there.

Investigators for the Senate committee are now attempting to interview Mr. Hunt about this assertion, a committee spokesman said.

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NEW YORK TIMES
December 26, 1975

This type of subheading which is not supported even by Hunt's allegations implies that I must have been tied in with actual "slaying" activities

HUNT SAYS C. I. A. HAD ASSASSIN UNIT

Watergate Figure Tells of Small Group Set Up to Slay Double Agents

By JOHN M. CREWDSON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25—E. Howard Hunt Jr., the former Central Intelligence Agency officer who was convicted of helping carry out the 1972 Watergate break-in, says he was told in the mid-1950's that the C.I.A. had a small unit set up to arrange for the assassination of suspected double agents and similar low-ranking officials.

In a recent interview at the Federal correctional institution at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, where he is serving an eight-year sentence imposed for his role in the Watergate conspiracy, Mr. Hunt said he recalled having been told by C.I.A. superiors in 1954 or 1955 that Boris T. Pash, an agency official, was in charge of the assassination unit.

The Senate select committee that is investigating American intelligence activities released a report last month on C.I.A.-inspired assassination plots against two foreign heads of state, and the panel's investigators are known to have gathered information not yet made public about the agency's connection with at least one murder of a lower-ranking official.

But a committee spokesman said that no reference to Mr. Pash, an Army colonel who is understood to have died, had been included by the C.I.A. in the information on the agency's role in assassination plots supplied to the panel.

Mr. Hunt said he had not been interviewed by committee staff members about C.I.A. assassinations or any other topic, but the Senate spokesman said that the assertions regarding Colonel Pash would be investigated.

A C.I.A. spokesman declined comment when asked whether Colonel Pash had ever been employed by the agency or what his capacity there might have been.

The Army's register of retired officers shows, however, that Colonel Pash left the service with an undescribed "permanent disability" in November 1957, about two years after Mr. Hunt said he first met the colonel.

In the interview, Mr. Hunt said that, during the period in question, he was a staff officer assigned to the C.I.A.'s Balkans division, and that on one occasion he and his colleagues had encountered "very substantial problems" with an organization that the agency was "maintaining in West Germany."

'Penetration' Suspected

The difficulty, Mr. Hunt said, concerned a person in the organization, an Albanian, "who probably was a penetration," the C.I.A. term for an agent discovered to be working for a hostile intelligence service.

Mr. Hunt said that it was to "neutralize" the man "in such a way that the other side would not know that we were aware of his activities, and of course assassination was the obvious answer."

Mr. Hunt said that he inquired about arranging for such an assassination and "I was told that we had that capability," and "that the guy to see about his sor of thing was Colonel Pash."

The colonel, according to Mr. Hunt, was a mysterious figure around the agency who shared a small office with his deputy and who "was kind of a joke" among other C.A.A. officials. "It was a wary joke, though," Mr. Hunt added. "Nobody really knew what he was doing."

After having been directed by his superiors to Colonel Pash's office, Mr. Hunt recalled, "I talked to Boris" and I said, 'Look, we have this problem here, is this something you guys can handle?'"

Colonel Pash replied that he was not sure, Mr. Hunt said, and seemed to react with a "sort of shock that the subject had ever been brought up."

Mr. Hunt said that he consequently left the matter there, and never inquired afterward about what fate, if any, had befallen the suspected agent.

The Senate committee's assassination report concluded that the C.I.A. had inspired ultimately unsuccessful plots to kill Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, and Patrice Lumumba, the late Congolese leader, and had been involved indirectly in a successful plot against Rafael Trujillo, the Dominican dictator.

While all of the information on C.I.A. assassination plots made public by the committee thus far has concerned attempts on the lives of foreign political leaders, the panel is understood to be withholding for later release information it has gathered on agency involvement in lower-level assassinations.

Some sources familiar with the committee's investigation say it has gathered some information about the murder of a C.I.A. operative in a Latin-American country who attempted to "blackmail" the agency. The panel is also reported to be looking into a report that an agency official once told confidants of his involvement in a New Orleans murder disguised as a hit-and-run accident.

are there brought in to augment possible list of "low-ranking" victims?

Since Hunt "fingered" me as head of assassination activities, will reader assume I was responsible for this murder?
Did agency give this to Crewdson, or was it the committee

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 197

Retired Colonel Denies Heading C.I.A. Unit for Assassinations

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8—A retired Army colonel has denied to Senate investigators an assertion by E. Howard Hunt Jr. that the colonel once headed a Central Intelligence Agency unit set up to arrange for the assassinations of suspected double-agents.

The colonel, Boris T. Pash, told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence yesterday that during 1954 and 1955—the period in which Mr. Hunt, a former C.I.A. officer, said he was told that Colonel Pash ran such an operation—he had left the C.I.A. and returned to military service.

In a statement made public by the panel today, Colonel Pash termed Mr. Hunt's assertions "insidious and completely false."

He said he could not recall ever having met or spoken with Mr. Hunt, who is serving a prison term for his role in the Watergage case.

Nor, the colonel said, was he ever "involved in any assassination planning," between 1949 and 1951, the period in which he was temporarily assigned to the C.I.A., or at any other time in his career.

Mr. Hunt said in a recent interview that during his service with the C.I.A.'s Balkans division in the mid-1950's he had discussed with Colonel Pash, at his superiors' behest, the prospective assassination of an individual who was believed to be a double agent.

"I was told that we had that capability," Mr. Hunt said in the interview, and "that the guy to see about this sort o thing was Colonal Pash."

Mr. Hunt, who said that he had understood that Colonel Pash was deceased, added that he did discuss the matter with the colonel, who seemed shocked "that the subject has ever been brought up," and that the matter consequently was left there.

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Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, 1981-1982